

PROCUREMENT PLAN(Textual Part)

Project information: INDIA, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

Project Implementation agency: Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society (ARIASS) is the main agency.

Date of the Procurement Plan (Textual Part) : February 03, 2022

Period covered by this Procurement Plan: Until publication of next version of the Procurement Plan (Textual Part).

Preamble

In accordance with paragraph 5.9 of the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” (July 2016) (“Procurement Regulations”) the Bank’s Systematic Tracking and Exchanges in Procurement (STEP) system will be used to prepare, clear and update Procurement Plans and conduct all procurement transactions for the Project.

This textual part along with the Procurement Plan tables in STEP constitute the Procurement Plan for the Project. The following conditions apply to all procurement activities in the Procurement Plan. The other elements of the Procurement Plan as required under paragraph 4.4 of the Procurement Regulations are set forth in STEP.

The Bank’s Standard Procurement Documents: shall be used for all contracts subject to international competitive procurement and those contracts as specified in the Procurement Plan tables in STEP.

Procurement for the project will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, applicable to Investment Project Financing (IPF). The project will be subject to the World Bank’s Anticorruption Guidelines, dated October 15, 2006, as revised in January 2011 and July 2016.

The table below describes various procurement methods to be used for activities financed by the loan. The thresholds (Table 1) indicated will govern the procurement approach and methods;

Table 1: Procurement Thresholds

Procurement Approaches and Methods	Thresholds (US\$ equivalent)
Open international (works - including turnkey, supply and installation of plant and equipment and PPP)	Any value activity
Open national (works - including turnkey, supply and installation of plant and equipment and PPP)	Below 40 million
Open international (goods, IT system, and non-consulting services)	Any value activity
Open national (goods, IT system, and non-consulting services)	Below 10 million
National request for quotation (goods and works)	Up to 100,000
Direct selection	No threshold; For works, goods, non-consulting services and IT system procurement: According to paragraphs 6.8-6.10 of the Regulations; For consultants: According to paragraphs 7.13-7.15 of the Regulations
Shortlist of national consultants	Up to 2,000,000

Procurement prior-review thresholds. The World Bank will prior review the following contracts:

1. Works (including turnkey, supply and installation of plant and equipment and PPP): All contracts more than US\$ 15 million equivalent
2. Goods, IT system and Non-consulting services: All contracts more than US\$4 million equivalent
3. Consultants: All contracts >US\$2 million equivalent for firms and >US\$400,000 equivalent for individuals

4. There is no automatic requirement to undertake prior review for direct selection for value less than these thresholds
5. Additional provisions as mentioned at paragraph 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 & 2.5 of Annex I (Mandatory Procurement Prior Review Thresholds) under Bank Procedure (Effective August 01, 2018), "Procurement in IPF and Other Operational Procurement Matters" will also apply.

National Procurement Arrangements: National competition for the procurement of works, goods, IT system procurement and non-consulting services according to the established thresholds will be conducted in accordance with paragraphs 5.3-5.5 of Section V of the Regulations and the following provisions:

1. Only the model bidding documents for National Competitive Procurement (NCP) agreed with the GOI Task Force (and as amended for time to time), shall be used for bidding.
2. Invitations to bid shall be advertised on a widely used website or electronic portal with free open access at least 30 days prior to the deadline for the submission of bids, unless otherwise agreed in the approved procurement plan.
3. No special preference will be accorded to any bidder either for price or for other terms and conditions when competing with foreign bidders, state-owned enterprises, small-scale enterprises or enterprises from any given State.
4. Except with the prior concurrence of the Bank, there shall be no negotiation of price with the bidders, even with the lowest evaluated bidder.
5. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) set-up by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India will be acceptable for procurement under Request for Quotations (RFQ) method.
6. At the Borrower's request, the Bank may agree to the Borrower's use, in whole or in part, of its electronic procurement system, provided that the Bank is satisfied with the adequacy of such system.
7. Procurement will be open to eligible firms from any country. This eligibility shall be as defined under Section III of the Procurement Regulations. Accordingly, no bidder or potential bidder shall be declared ineligible for contracts financed by the Bank for reasons other than those provided in Section III of the Procurement Regulations.
8. The request for bids/request for proposals document shall require that Bidders/Proposers submitting Bids/Proposals include a signed acceptance in the bid, to be incorporated in any resulting contracts, confirming application of, and compliance with, the Bank's Anti-Corruption Guidelines, including without limitation the Bank's right to sanction and the Bank's inspection and audit rights.
9. The Borrower shall use an effective complaints mechanism for handling procurement related complaints in a timely manner.

10. Procurement Documents will include provisions, as agreed with the Bank, intended to adequately mitigate against environmental, social (including sexual exploitation and abuse and gender-based violence), health and safety (“ESHS”) risks and impacts.

Domestic preference-The provision of domestic preference will be applied in the evaluation of bids in accordance with Annex VI of the Regulations.

Procurement of Works, Goods (Supply and Installation; and IT Equipment), Non-Consultancy Services and Consultancy Services - As per procurement plan approved in STEP.

